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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #109 - POSTED 01/29/94

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NET

CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call

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91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

[859]

The following is a QST

The ARRL files against an instant ham radio ticket and the Red Cross asks hams for help.

ARRL FILES AGAINST INSTANT LICENSE

The ARRL said that it would challenge any move toward the creation of an instant ham radio license and it has now put its words on paper and sent them off to the FCC. This, in comments opposing the commission generated proposal to grant immediate on the air privileges to amateur examinees before a license is issued by the Commission.

The League says that it stands by its previous statement in opposition to a petition for rule making that resulted in the FCC's proposal, in PR Docket 93-267. At that time, the ARRL said in response to a petition by the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society VEC that such a system was both unlawful and would be detrimental to enforcement. The League said that the FCC had, as recently as 1987, denied such a concept and that the absence of an up to date database of such temporary call signs would make both self regulation by amateurs themselves and rules enforcement by the Commission more difficult.

The League now says that suggestions in the NPRM that precedents for such a plan exist in other services are incorrect and has reiterated its opinion that such a plan is inconsistent with the international radio regulations. Instead, the ARRL has emphasized that electronic filing of applications with the FCC would accomplish the same goal. This, of reducing the wait to get on the air, while maintaining total FCC oversight of licensing.

As we've reported, AMSAT North America is in full agreement with the ARRL but the rival National Amateur Radio Association, many VEC's and several prominent radio clubs have gone on the record of favoring an instant licensing plan. NARA and a number of radio clubs say that in lieu of self assigned call signs, each VEC should have a previously assigned block of calls that it can issue on the spot. Most of those in favor of instant licensing are however demanding that the FCC include better safeguards against bootlegging than are in the original commission proposal. The reply comment cutoff date for this proposal is February 10th. Look for a decision on this one fairly early.

ARRL BOARD MEETING HELD RECENTLY

A frigid Hartford, Connecticut was the scene for this years first annual meeting of 1994 for the ARRL's Board of Directors. The temperature was below freezing outside, but not so in the meeting hall itself.

Board members spent their meeting covering a variety of topics affecting amateur radio. A League committee will look into the possibility of offering group legal defense insurance to league members involved in lawsuits over antennas and rfi. The league wants to loosen some of the rules governing spread spectrum

techniques. In fact the ARRL says it will file a petition for rulemaking seeking to remove overly restrictive rules concerning the use of spread spectrum communications. Board members adopted an interim report and band plan recommendation for amateur use 219 to 220 Mhz. That one mhz slice has been proposed for limited amateur use including packet communications. And the first steps may be starting to change the 40m novice subband. A League committee will consider possibly relocating that band. The committees report is due in July. You will be getting a reminder from League when your license is about to expire. That new practice will also include sending a 610 form to help encourage amateur radio license renewal.

A lot of what the ARRL board decided last week will definitely affect your day to day ham radio operations for years to come.

LEAGUE AT THE NAT

The ARRL is inviting Broadcast professionals and others to visit its booth at the annual convention of the National Association of Broadcasters, to be held March 21st through the 24th at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The booth, manned by ARRL Public Information Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, has in past years attracted several hundred amateurs and former amateurs. Steve will be on hand to field questions from those in broadcasting who are interested in Amateur Radio. The League will be in Booth number is 2703.

RED CROSS NEEDS HAMS

In the wake of the January 17th Northridge earthquake, the Los Angeles chapter of the Red Cross says that it is in very desperate need of hams to provide help on weekdays and weekday evenings filling shifts in its quake relief shelters. Weekdays pose a real problem for the Red Cross as many of their volunteers have regular jobs. If you are coming to Los Angeles, have a two meter hand-held and have at least six free hours, please call Jim Prince at area code (213) 739-4510. This Red Cross says that this work is vital to those made homeless by the recent quakes, so please consider donating some time.

WESTLINK REPORT NEWSLETTER ISSUE DELAYED

The Northridge earthquake has taken yet another toll. This, in the ability of a popular ham radio newsletter to get its next

edition in the mail.

If you are a subscriber to the Westlink Report ham radio newsletter, you may be wondering where edition number 665 is. While it is true that Publisher Burt Hicks, WB6MQV is looking to sell the publication, that's not the reason for the delay in your getting the latest work. Hicks says that last weeks California earthquake is to blame.

"While I was sitting at the keyboard at 4:30 in the morning when the quake hit. It's only by the grace of God that I wasn't killed as things came flying off the tops of bookcases and speaker shelving. The computer was hit and sent flying. It took me a couple of days to find it after unburying it. Yes, the issue will come out. But, it is going to be a couple of weeks. My apologies to our readers." Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, Editor of Westlink Report.

While we had Burt on the phone we also asked why he has decided to bow out of the ham radio publishing arena after fourteen years.

"It has become quite a burden on us with my work schedule shift at a Hollywood TV station. I work all night five days a week. Then I have four children to keep me awake the rest of the time. It's becoming increasingly difficult, I don't know maybe it is just old age. I still love the newsletter, but at a certain point your body can only handle so much." Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, Editor of the Westlink Report.

Hicks says that he plans to continue publishing the Westlink Report until a suitable buyer comes along. He says that he will only sell out to an individual or group that promises to uphold the same commitment to moral and journalistic integrity started by his predecessor Joe Schroeder, W9JUV, in his HR Report. Hicks adds that the next edition will soon be in the mail.

THIS WEEK IN AMATEUR RADIO UPDATE

A quick correction. A few weeks ago we reported on the return of This Week in Amateur Radio to the satellite bands. Unfortunately we got the transponder wrong. This Week in Amateur Radio can be found on Galaxy 3 Transponder 17 with 5.8 MHz audio, not on Transponder 19 as reported.

NO DAYTON BUSSES

If you are planning to attend the 1994 Dayton Hamvention, better plan to drive your car out to the Hara Arena convention venue. This is because Hamvention planners have announced that they will not be providing free bus service to hotels and motels this year.

The problem is simply one of cost. Dayton first began providing the free bus service after land adjacent to the Hara Arena was made off limits for parking. Over the years, the cost of providing the free bus service has soared until it topped the ninety thousand dollar mark. That's simply more than the Hamvention can afford to pay.

But over the past twelve months, much of the old parking adjacent to the Hara Arena became available once again. Its now privately owned, so there will be a nominal daily charge to be decided by the owner of each lot.

Getting the parking spaces back means that the Hamvention can cut back this expensive transport service. Now it needs to provide shuttles only to outlying parking facilities such as the Salem Mall. According to Hamvention General Chairman Dave Grubb, KC8CF, this will be a savings of over forty-five thousand dollars. Money that can better be spent on improving other aspects of this yearly event.

Grubb adds that the Hamvention Planning Committee is also working with the Dayton Chamber of Commerce and the city's Convention and Visitors bureau. This, to see if either will help to underwrite the cost of running busses from the various hotels. In lieu of that, the Hamvention is also trying to get the hotels and motels to provide this service for their guests.

The bottom line is that a few out of town visitors who fly to Dayton for the Hamvention may be inconvenienced by this change, but the enhanced on-site parking may make things a lot easier for the vast majority of Hamvention attendees who drive.

TAPR MEETING

Tucson Amateur Packet Radio better known as TAPR has scheduled its annual meeting for March 4th to 6th at the Best Western Inn at the Airport in Tucson. The meeting will feature presentations and papers on several new hardware projects, discussions, and hands-on demonstrations. The afternoon session on Saturday will feature a mini-symposium on future directions in amateur packet radio. For more information contact Program Chairman Keith Justice, KF7TP, at (602) 461-8687, or contact TAPR at 8987-309 East Tanque Verde Road, Unit Number 337, Tucson, Arizona 85749. Their voice mail system number is (817) 383-0000 and the fax line is (817) 566-2544.

QSL STATISTICS

In DX, the ARRL says that its members in 1993 sent about 7 and a quarter tons of QSL cards to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, and the Bureau shipped them out. This was a total 2,182,000 cards for DX destinations.

The US Incoming QSL Bureau's volunteers sorted just over two million cards in 1993, as well.

QSL ROMEO

Cards for the 9D0RR operation should be sent to Edward Kritsky, Box 715, Brooklyn, New York 11230. The former address of Box 776 belongs to Romeo Stepaneko and is now being used only for his personal business. The change applies only to 9D0RR cards. All other cards for Romeo still go to the Box 766 address.

VIDEO WINNER

Emmy award winning producer Rich Moseson, NW2L has won yet another honor. The ARRL reports that his video titled Ham Radio Horizons was a finalist in the New York Festivals International Non-Broadcast Media competition for 1993. The awards were presented January 14th in New York City.

The 49-minute program introducing non-hams to Amateur Radio is part of the CQ Communications video library, which also includes videos on satellite operation, DXing, contests, and packet radio. Executive producer Rich Moseson is also ARRL Section Manager for Northern New Jersey.

For this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at Post Office Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

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Notes: 1- The regular transcribed version was not available this week, so I'm doing it myself. Pardon the typos.
2- Because of earthquake related mail delays, this weeks audio report, (860), that this version is made from, was to be aired the previous week. For that reason, one of the stories which was outdated, is not included here.

From around the world, this is NEWSLINE. Amateur Radio's independent, on the air, bulletin service.

Edition #860, Reporter: Roy Neil, K6DUE

Closed Circuit Advisory

A reminder. The address for the NEWSLINE Support Fund is; Newsline, C/O Dr. Norm Chalfin, K6PGX, Post Office Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102. Remember, we need your support to keep NEWSLINE, online.

Headline

The following is a QST Ham Radio ticket, and a court says a Ham does have a right to a tower, and antenna.

ARRL Suggests Lifetime Ham License

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to make Amateur Radio operator licenses valid for life. In its petition, the League says that there is nothing in the Communications Act of 1934, that would prevent such a license term for radio amateurs. It wants a lifetime operators license to allow inactive amateurs to return to the service at the same class of license without the necessity of retesting. This proposal would apply only to operator licenses. Amateur radio station licenses would, by law, still be limited to a 10 year term. A person with a lifetime operator license, but no station license, would not be permitted to operate a station of his own, but would be able to operate from the station of another amateur.

The League says that nothing in this proposal should have any effect on the FCC's call sign issuance program as it currently exists, or as proposed in the vanity callsign program. The ARRL says at this time it is not proposing to make this rule

change retroactive, rather, it suggests the easiest way to implement it, is simply to extend currently held operator licenses from 10 years to life. No rule making number has yet been assigned to this ARRL regulatory change request.

ARRL Asks For Vanity Comment-Date Extension

Word from Newington, CT., that the ARRL is asking the FCC for an extension to the Comment Cutoff deadline, on the Commission's proposal to establish a Vanity callsign system. The FCC's notice of proposed rule making, known as Personal Radio, Docket: 93-305, was released December 29, 1993, it has a comment deadline of March 7, 1994. The League said that it immediately decide to publish the text of the rule making proposal, in it's entirety, in the Feb. 1994, issue of it's QST

ARRL says it also is asking its members to make their views on the matter, made known to their elected representatives, but in its request for an extension of the filing deadline, until April 21st, the ARRL says that because the matter of issuing preferred call signs involves a scarce resource, the question of maintaining fairness in all aspects of the program must be addressed. The League also says that the March 7th comment deadline, simply does not allow enough time for ARRL members to express their views on the proposal. Nor will it let the ARRL board formulate a position, based on membership input, as to what position it should take. It's now up to the FCC to decide on this ARRL time extension request, we'll let you know when the Commission decides. (Reported by David Black, KB4KCH)

Court Finds In Favor Of Ham Antenna

A federal appeals court has found in favor of a Minnesota ham in the latest round of a 3 year battle to install a tower and antenna. Back in January of 1991, Sylvia Pentel, N0MRW, applied to the city of Medota Heights for a zoning variance for a 68 ft. crank-up tower. At the time she was using a roof mounted vertical, which, she was unaware, violated the city's zoning rules. The city denied her application for a tower, but did grant Pentel a special use permit to allow here to keep the vertical, but that did not satisfy N0MRW.

Pentel sued the city in U.S. district court. Her attorney, John B. Bellows Jr., K0QBE, argued that the ordinance

restricting her tower and antenna was preempted by federal law. A law known as PRB-1, which requires a reasonable accommodation of radio amateurs. The U.S. Court of Appeals for The 8th Circuit, has ruled that in establishing PRB-1, the FCC was attempting to strike a balance between the interests of municipalities and ham radio operators. The court noted that granting a special use permit for Pentel's vertical was not an acceptable accommodation to the radio amateur under the terms of PRB-1 and ordered the city to try again. The court did put some limit on it's decision. It said the finding does not mean the city must necessarily grant Pentel's application for a tower. Rather it stated the Mendota Heights, MN, must make a reasonable accommodation to insure her interests as a radio amateur are protected.

Ham Convicted of Harassing McDonalds Customers

A United States district court in Texas has written an end to the story of Terry VanSikle, WB5WXI, by sentencing him to 90 days of home confinement, 3 years probation, fining him \$1000, and ordering that he undergo a group counseling program as directed by the probation office. VanSikle is a TV news cameraman at station WFAA who had been accused by the FBI of harassing customers at a McDonalds restaurant drive-through window in the Dallas area. He initially protested his innocence last summer. One newspaper even ran a 2 column feature about VanSikle, quoting him as saying that the frequencies used by McDonalds are posted on computer bulletin boards, and anyone could have been responsible.

But on the 18th of October, Terry VanSikle changed his story. He pleaded guilty to one count of violating Title 47, section 333 of the U.S. code by willfully and maliciously interfering with radio communications. Sentencing was set for early January, and that time he faced a maximum term of 1 year in prison and \$100,000. fine. The lighter sentence of 90 days home confinement and probation falls under federal sentencing guide lines. It's mitigated by the fact that VanSikle has already has lost some \$15,000. worth of scanners, two way radios, and other gear confiscated when he was detained.

Still, VanSikle's troubles may not be over. There's a likelihood of FCC administrative action to strip him of any federally issued radio licenses. And also there's the possibility of civil action against him by the McDonalds Corporation to recoup any losses incurred as a result of his jamming their radio system.

ARRL Reacts To NJ RF Fee Proposal

Officials of the American Radio Relay League have told the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy that a State proposal to register and impose fees on radio transmitters, and other sources of RF, was contrary to federal law; at least as the law is related to radio amateurs. The New Jersey proposal exempted amateur radio stations at this time, but leaves the door open for future regulation of hams and imposition of fees. But ARRL general counsel, Chris Imlay, N3AKD, says that only the FCC has the power to license and regulate radio transmitters. Imlay says that applying the proposed regulations to amateurs would effectively preclude amateur radio communications in New Jersey. The NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection And Energy has extended the deadline for comments on the proposal until February 22nd. Hams in NJ, and the surrounding States, are being encouraged to write the NJ Legislature in opposition to the radio tax proposal.

DXpedition

In DX, word that the LAMBDA Amateur Radio Club, LARC, will sponsor it's 3rd expedition from March 5th to the 10th. LARC members are planning to operate on HF and OSCAR 13, mode "B" and mode "S" from the Caribbean Island of Anguila in the British West Indies. The operators making the trip will be Jim Kelly - KK3K, Don Bledsoe - WB6LYI, Mark Wilcox - KC3XC, Tom Hendrix - KI4ZN, Howard Wyman - W9BVD, Norm Gray - KF7IK, James Keis - AF9A, and Wayne Shuller - AI9Q. A QSL for all operators is direct to their current call book addresses. This may well be the first OSCAR 13, mode "S" expedition for the record books.

Free QRP Info

Two QRP nets, located in the Pacific Northwest, are now available to help you meet other low power enthusiasts throughout the country. The Northwest QRP Club meets every Monday evening at 0300 UTC on 10.123 Mhz. The Northwest QRP Club Saturday Morning Net can be found at 0730 UTC on 3.561 Mhz. If you're interested in receiving a free copy of their NWQ newsletter, please send an SASE to Bill Todd, 4153 49th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116.

Exam Dates Set

Two ARRL national exam days have been set for 1994, May 14th and October 29th. Details will be in the February Issue of QST

Marathon Ham

A ham who ran in the New York City Marathon last November, to raise money for Cancer research, will be doing it again soon on the West Coast. Fred Dube, AA8FQ, has announced that he will run in the March 6th Los Angeles Marathon and will be on the air before and during the race. With backing from ICOM America, Dube says that he will hold as many QSO's as he can while running the course. He says he plans to use repeaters on 145.200Mhz, 146.925Mhz, 445.325Mhz, and 447.235Mhz. Fred also will try his luck on the national SIMPLEX calling frequency, 146.52. His frequency coordination is being handled by the Baldwin Hills ARC. If band conditions warrant, he also plans to try some 20 meter remote base operations. Look for him on 14.295Mhz.

AA8FQ's participation in the New York City Marathon raised about \$2500. that was donated to the Sloan-Kettering Memorial Cancer Center. This time the proceeds of sponsored miles will benefit the Los Angeles Childrens' Cancer Research Fund. That organization is considered one of leading pediatric cancer research organization in the country. Ham's interested in sponsoring miles to be run by Fred can contact him at (216) 721-2466. Meanwhile we at NEWSLINE wish Fred Dube, AA8FQ good luck in his next run to save lives.

For this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at Post Office Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

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